

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 02362 212136Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AS-01 FEA-01 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15
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R 210535Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3422
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 2362

USEEC

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD
SUBJECT: NZ MINISTER OF OVERSEAS TRADE TO VISIT EUROPE

1. THE NZ MINISTER OF OVERSEAS TRADE (ALSO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) BRIAN E TALBOYS, WILL DEPART WELLINGTON ON JULY 1 FOR A VISIT TO SEVEN CAPITALS IN CONNECTION WITH NZ EFFORTS TO GET A FAVORABLE EEC DECISION ON CONTINUED CHEESE EXPORTS AND A HIGHER PRICE FOR BUTTER EXPORTS TO GREAT BRITAIN NEXT YEAR. HE WILL ALSO BE STRESSING NZ'S KEEN INTEREST IN MAINTAINING ITS STANDING IN THE BRITISH MARKET
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FOR SHEEP MEAT EXPORTS.

2. UNDER A SPECIAL EEC PROTOCOL AGREED TO WHEN THE UK JOINED THE EEC, NZ WAS GIVEN A DECLINING ANNUAL QUOTA ON BUTTER EXPORTS TO THE UK - AT A GUARANTEED PRICE. THE QUOTA ON BUTTER EXPORTS TO THE UK - AT A GUARANTEED PRICE. THE QUOTA WAS TO END AFTER 1977. IN 1976, WITH EEC BUTTER STOCKS VERY

HIGH, IN EXCHANGE OR AN 18 PERCENT PRICE INCREASE TO COMPENSATE FOR LARGER PRODUCTION AND SHIPPING COSY, NZ AGREED TO REDUCE ITS 1976 BUTTER EXPORTS TO 120,000 MT'S. THE EEC ALSO AGREED TO EXTEND THE QUOTA ON A DECLINING BASIS TO 1980. BECAUSE OF CONTINUING ESCALATING COSTS AND A HIGHER GUARANTEED PRICE FOR EEC AREA PRODUCED BUTTER, NZ IS SEEKING ANOTHER INCREASE IN THE PRICE FOR ITS BUTTER. (INDUSTRY CALCULATIONS. REPORTEDLY "JUSTIFY" A 24 PERCENT RISE, BUT THE MINISTER HAS CONCEDED NZ MAY HAVE TO SETTLE FOR LESS THAN THAT.)

3. A SPECIAL QUOTA ON NZ CHEESE EXPORTS TO THE UK IS DUE TO END AFTER 1977. NZ URGENTLY WANTS TO GET EEC AGREEMENT TO EXTEND THISQUOTA. UNDER AN AGREEMENT REACHED IN DUBLIN IN 1975 THE EEC PROMISED TO REVIEW THESITUATION THIS YEAR. MR TALBOYS HOPES HIS COMING DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS WILL GET THE EEC TO TAKE AN EARLY FAVORABLE DECISION ON EXTENDING THE CHEESE QUOTA. PRIME MINISTER MULDOON, WHO IS AT PRESENT IN THE UK IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IS REPORTED AS HAVING SAID DURING A SPEECH IN LONDON THAT SOME NZ CHEESE FACTORIES WILL HAVE TO CLOSE IF THE BRITISH MARKET IS DENIED TO NZ AFTER 1977.

4. DUTY ON LAMB IMPORTS FROM NZ ARE SCHEDULED TO RISE IN MED-1977 TO THE FULL 20 PERCENT RATE. ACCORDING TO REPORTS THERE NOW APPEARS LITTLE NZ HOPE OF GAINING EEC AGREEMENT TO DELAY THIS DUTY INCREASE. IN FACT, THERE IS UNCLASSIFIED

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CONCERN IN NZ THAT PRESSURES IN THE EEC COULD LEAD ALSO TO RESTRICTING FUTURE NZ LAMB EXPORTS TO THE UK. MR TALBOYS HOPES TO FORESTALL ANY SUCH MOVE. SELDEN

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